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SENATE BILL 150

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

JOSEPH J. CARRARO

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; INCREASING THE POWERS OF THE NEW MEXICO
VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 28-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,
Chapter 252, Section 33) is amended to read:

"28-13-1. SHORT TITLE. -- [~~Sections 74-1-1 through 74-1-12~~
~~NMSA 1953~~] Chapter 28, Article 13 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the
"Veterans' Service Act". "

Section 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE. -- Because the federal
veterans' administration has no plans to establish or expand
national cemeteries in New Mexico, and it is evident that space
in the Santa Fe national cemetery will be depleted after the
year 2000, the legislature recognizes the state's obligation to

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1 find a suitable alternative for the respectful interment of its
2 veterans and the need to find land for the establishment of a
3 veterans' cemetery. Parcels of state land have been identified
4 as possible areas for a future veterans' cemetery, but studies
5 need to be conducted to assess their appropriateness and the
6 feasibility of such a project. If the state donates land for
7 the purpose of building a veterans' cemetery, the federal
8 veterans' administration has a state cemetery grants program
9 through which the state could receive financial and maintenance
10 assistance for the building and upkeep of the projected
11 veterans' cemetery.

12 Section 3. A new section of the Veterans' Service Act is
13 enacted to read:

14 "[NEW MATERIAL] ADDITIONAL POWERS--STATE VETERANS'
15 CEMETERY FUND CREATED. --The New Mexico veterans' service
16 commission shall have general control over the collection and
17 disbursement of all money collected or received pursuant to
18 state law for the purpose of the formation of a state veterans'
19 cemetery. There is created in the state treasury the "state
20 veterans' cemetery fund". All money collected or received by
21 the New Mexico veterans' service commission for purposes of
22 establishing a state veterans' cemetery shall be deposited in
23 the fund and is appropriated to the New Mexico veterans' service
24 commission. Money appropriated to the fund shall not revert to
25 the general fund. The fund shall include all income from the

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1 investment of the fund. "

2 Section 4. APPROPRIATION. -- Fifty thousand dollars
3 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state
4 veterans' cemetery fund for expenditure in fiscal year 1998 for
5 the purpose of hiring necessary professionals to conduct a study
6 of parcels of state land in Rio Rancho in Sandoval county and
7 other available state lands and to assess their suitability for
8 a state veterans' cemetery. Any unexpended or unencumbered
9 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 1998 shall not
10 revert to the general fund.

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